

## REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-6 have been cancelled and new claims 7 and 8 have been added. Claims 1 and 7-8 remain in the application.

The claims have been amended to more particularly distinguish the invention over the prior art, especially U.S. Patent No. 6,127,903 to Foley.

Regarding claim 1, the part for supporting and fixing an electrical electronic component is now limited to the feature initially recited in claims 2 and 3 and further limited to baffles fixed to the detachable closing cover.

In new claim 7, the supporting and fixing part according to claim 1 is now limited to the features initially recited in claims 1, 2 and 4 and further limited again to baffles fixed to the pivoting closing cap.

In new claim 8, it is only amended to now depend on new claim 7.

The amendments in the claims are all based on the specification as filed.

## Claim patentability

Amended claim 1 and new claim 7 clearly distinguish the invention over Foley. The baffles are fixed to the detachable closing cover (claim 1) or to the pivoting closing cap (claim 7) to promote the disengagement of the two strands of the severed electric wire. This embodiment advantageously avoids contact between said strands and the blade (see page 5, first paragraph). Foley only provides for the strands not to contact the blade by burying said blade into a groove of the lower portion of the cutting element. It is not clear from Foley if a contact between the strands and the blade could really be impeded where the cutting element experiences vibrations or the like. In this regard, it is worth noting that Foley's invention is to be used for installation of local area network at home, where no vibrations are expected. Conversely, the baffles fixed to the closing cap of the claimed fixing and supporting part prevent any contact between the strands and the blade when the closing cap is in the closed position relative to the compartment, even though the fixing and supporting part experiences vibrations.

New claim 8 also clearly distinguishes the invention over Foley, since U.S. Patent No. 6,127,903 does not specifically disclose a leading angle for the blade. This embodiment allows a "guillotine" effect of the blade when severing the electric wire. This technical effect is implicitly contained in this specification, taking into account that the leading angle of the blade is described in combination with the pivoting embodiment of the closing cover (see page 5, last paragraph).

It is thus submitted that the amended claims define an invention that is novel and involves an inventive step over Foley. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas LECUPPE et al

Date: Oct. 15, 2004

By:



Michael O. Sturm  
Reg. No. 26,078

STURM & FIX LLP  
206 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1213  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4076  
Telephone: (515) 288-9589  
Facsimile: (515) 288-5311